

# GLORIA'S ROMANCE

By Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Hughes

Novelized from the Motion Picture Play of the same name by George Kleine.

## SYNOPSIS.

Pierpont Stafford, with his daughter Gloria, is wintering at Palm Beach. Gloria is a vivacious but willful young lady who chafes under the restraining hand of her father. Her childish capers cause young Judge Freeman to fall in love with her. Gloria loses her life in the everglades she falls into the hands of the Seminole Indians. Gloria falls in love with her rescuer, Freeman. Five years later she leaves school and meets Freeman at the theater; he has forgotten Gloria. Later Freeman persuades her to forgive him. Gloria's sister-in-law, Lois, becomes intensely jealous and Doctor Royce discovers in her an ally. Freeman takes leave of Gloria. She sees from her window an attack made on a houseboat by a tramp who attacks her. Doctor Royce convinces her it is a delirium. She accidentally sees the supposed suicide of Freeman reported in the paper. Gloria swears to find the murderer. Royce tells what he knows of Freeman to Mr. Stafford. Gloria insists on going to Palm Beach. She is recognized by her one-time captor, the young Indian chief. He tells her that Royce and not Freeman was her rescuer at that time. Gloria attends night court; she sees many there, also the tramp who attacked her. But Judge Freeman releases him. She follows the tramp when he leaves the court. She finds herself in a hat shop and is selected by one of the patrons as his partner. Doctor Royce, however, follows her, and when he attempts a rescue, cuts down a man on their heads. The hall is raided and the crowd, including Gloria and Royce, is arrested and taken before Judge Freeman. Casimir arrives with the child Gloria promised to adopt. She orders Royce to take Casimir's wife to the Stafford home. She follows Trask and lands on a houseboat to hear him accused of Freeman's murder. She confronts him; he imprisons her, but she ties him up and escapes. By mere chance she arrives at home. In the youth Gloria and the men pursue the large. Trask fires on them as they near him. In the fight that follows Trask is killed. He is taken to the Stafford home. Royce endeavors to return to Lois her letters to Freeman. During a playful scuffle Gloria loses and recovers the envelope. She suspects Royce of complicity in the murder. Royce tells her all. She sees one of her husband's letters to Freeman. Judge Freeman confesses his part. When Lois is confronted she flees from Gloria intent on suicide.

## NINETEENTH EPISODE

### Her Vow Fulfilled

As Lois Stafford fled down the terraces of her father-in-law's majestic estate, her own life seemed to be symbolized in her desperate ambition to destroy herself. The flowers and the aromatic shrubs threw out their fragrance about her, but she would not pause. She was bent upon the tragedy waiting for her in the deep ravine toward which the express train was plunging as if in obedience to her summons.

The cries of Gloria, who pursued her frantically, came to her like the voice of conscience. She had never heeded that voice and she would not heed it now. She had trodden the primrose path of dalliance and it had led her forth into the glare of exposure. She would not endure the shame. It seemed better to her irresponsible soul to run away from self-denial. She had not cared what laws of fidelity she broke and she did not care now what hearts she might break. Her husband's tarnished honor, her father's blighted career, did not win a thought from her.

It was Gloria who thought of these things even as she followed. Gloria felt more guilt than Lois, for Gloria had confronted Lois with the proofs of her perfidy, never fancying that Lois would answer the charge by punishing herself with the same recklessness that had marked her sin. As she saw Lois running toward death with eagerness, she understood for the first time that it was in Lois' character to do everything passionately. She realized that Lois had always been Lois, and that her fault was, perhaps, beyond her own control. Lois was

born without imagination of consequences and without an instinct of justice for others. Was Lois to blame for her failure to inherit such qualities? At the time, at least, Gloria was convinced that Lois was like one born blind, more to be forgiven than hated. Gloria felt only pity for her sister-in-law and she accused herself of cruelty in demanding payment of her.

Gloria ran as fast as she could, her heart beating till she was ready to fall down with the pain of it. She was about to give up when Lois, glancing back for a last look at the beautiful earth she was about to leave, stumbled and went to her knees.

She rose at once and sped on, but Gloria had been enabled to gain on her, and to overtake her at the very edge of the ravine. With loving ruthlessness Gloria flung herself on Lois and dragged her back.

Lois fought with insane ferocity, tearing Gloria's hands loose and writhing out of her clasp. But Gloria seized hold again and again. Lois carried her back to the brink and the turf at the edge gave way under their feet as they wrestled. Gloria had now her own life to fight for as well as Lois', for at any moment both women might



She Was Still Surrounded by Hostile Friends.

go hurtling down the steep bank to the railroad tracks.

They were still battling when the engine roared past. The trainman, leaning out of his window, stared up at them in amazement. They were still struggling when the last coach flashed past.

It was only then, when her weapon of suicide was gone from her reach, that Lois gave up the fight. She fell to the ground weeping. She was more afraid of facing life than death, and she sobbed with terror if not with remorse.

Gloria knelt by her, begging her not to cry. At last she offered the final bribe in her power. She drew the envelope of letters from the bosom of her gown and held it out to Lois, saying:

"I forgive you, dear. I have no right to judge you. I can't take that responsibility. Keep your life and your past and make what you will of them."

Lois rather saw the prize than heard the counsel and she snatched at the letters with the instinct of a child.

Gloria felt her heart harden again. She could not keep back a feeling of contempt for the selfish pettiness of Lois.

Gloria was afraid to speak lest she waste further rebukes on a soul that could not profit by any other chastisement than sacrifice and fear. So Gloria left her and climbed the terraces. She noted with relief that no one had seen the brief drama that might have startled the whole nation. She was afraid that she had done everything she ought not to have done.

As she was entering the house to go to her room the boy Stas called her. He was lugging a picture book of foreign paintings. He knew nothing of any of them and he asked Gloria many questions she could not answer. One of the pictures represented Christ kneeling and writing on the ground. Near him lay a contrite woman in shame and tears. In the background a number of men were turning away shamefaced. The picture was labeled, "Neither Do I Condemn Thee, Go and Sin No More."

Now, Gloria felt that she was justified in laying aside her impulse to exact a penalty from Lois. She told Stas that the picture was beyond the understanding of a child, and that he was lucky to be a child. She wished that she had never grown up. Then she went to her room. Looking from her window, she could see the embankment where she had won a double victory over Lois and herself. Lois was tearing the bundle of letters to bits and scattering the pieces upon the railroad track, where she had nearly been torn to pieces herself.

Gloria felt that one riddle at least was solved. She felt sorry for David and his choice among women. Then she remembered the judge's accusation against David. According to that her brother was guilty of a more heinous crime than Lois. He had taken a life or, with even greater wickedness, had persuaded another man to commit murder for him. She could not rest till she had either cleared David of that suspicion or warned him that his secret was known.

The reason that the duel between Gloria and Lois had not been observed by anyone but the fleeing eyes of the fireman on the express engine was that the Stafford estate was a little world in itself.

David had been conferring with his business associates by telephone. Pierpont had been inspecting the prize cattle with which he jealously expected to confound his rival neighbors at the next county fair. Stas had been looking at the big picture books on the huge table in the great living room. His father, Casimir, had been working among the rose bushes with the head gardener. Judge Freeman had been involved in one more conspiracy, which he firmly hoped would be the last.

It was Casimir who first interrupted Gloria in her search for David. Casimir had hardly believed that there were as many roses in all the world as there in the Stafford close. He could see his wife lying in a reclining chair in a sunny nook and it occurred to him that one of those roses would cheer her and serve as a bit of gallantry. So he plucked one. The gardener saw the deed, charged on him with a roar, and snatched the flower from him. The deep thorn bite he received in his thumb did not pacify him. He stood sucking his thumb and swearing when Pierpont stroled by.

Pierpont had lost his temper at the dairy because the head valet to the cows had not brushed their teeth to his satisfaction nor maneuvered their hoofs to perfection. When the gardener explained that Casimir had dared to pluck one of the famous and priceless Pierpont roses which had never failed of honorable mention at the annual exhibition of the Garden club, Pierpont was more wrath than the head gardener.

Casimir quailed before the onslaught, and Gloria, drawn to the spot by the noisy voices, found him craven with confusion. She took his part at once, and when the gardener and her father explained the atrocity he had committed Gloria also turned on him:

"In heaven's name, Casimir, what did you mean by taking the only rose my poor father has?"

"I did take it," Mees Gloria, for to grieve my poor wife. Better I should go away now, yes?"

"You took a rose to give to your wife, did you?" Gloria cried. "You ought to be ashamed of yourself."

"I am it! Oh, I am it!" Casimir protested.

"I should think you would be," Gloria stormed. "Taking one rose for your poor wife. The next time you want flowers for her you take as many as you can carry."

While her father and the gardener and Casimir gaped like dots, she snipped off a dozen of the Pierpont roses with the gardener's own shears. She laid them in Casimir's arms and said: "Maybe she won't care for the Pierpont roses. I don't think much of them, myself. So take her some of each of these varieties, and find which she likes best. Then if the gardener bothers you again, tell me and I'll snip his head off the same way and you can have his place."



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## GRANDMA USED SAGE TEA TO DARKEN HAIR

She mixed Sulphur with it to Restore Color, Gloss, Youthfulness.

Common garden sage brewed into a heavy tea with sulphur added, will turn gray, streaked and faded hair beautifully dark and luxuriant. Just a few applications will prove a revelation if your hair is fading, streaked or gray. Mixing the Sage Tea and Sulphur recipe at home, though, is troublesome. An easier way is to get a 50-cent bottle of Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur Compound at any drug store all ready for use. This is the old time recipe improved by the addition of other ingredients.

While wispy, gray, faded hair is not sinful, we all desire to retain our youthful appearance and attractiveness. By darkening your hair with Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur Compound, no one can tell, because it does it so naturally, so evenly. You just dampen a sponge or soft brush with it and draw this through your hair, taking one small strand at a time; by morning all gray hairs have disappeared, and, after another application or two, your hair becomes beautifully dark, glossy, soft and luxuriant.

This preparation is a delightful toilet requisite and is not intended for the cure, mitigation or prevention of disease.

## SALTS IF BACKACHE AND KIDNEYS HURT

Drink lots of water and stop eating meat for a while if your bladder troubles you.

When you wake up with headache and dull misery in the kidney region it generally means you have been eating too much meat, and a well-known authority, "Jad Salts" are a good which everyone who is chosen in their efforts to filter it out of the blood and they become part of the blood and bones. When your kidneys get sluggish and you must relieve them, Jad Salts will relieve your bowels; removing all the waste, uric acid, and you have less pain, less headache, sleep, and your stomach, tongue, and throat are cleared, and when the weather is hot you have no more headache. The urine is healthy, full of alkalies, and you are not out of water and you are able to sleep well two or three times during the night.

Either consult a good, reliable physician at once or get your own medicine about four ounces of Jad Salts; take a tablespoonful in a glass of water before breakfast for a few days and your kidneys will then act fine. This famous salt is made from the acid of grapes and lemon juice, combined with lithia, and has been used for generations to clean and stimulate sluggish kidneys, also to neutralize acids in the urine so it no longer irritates, thus ending bladder weakness.

Jad Salts is a life saver for regular meat eaters. It is inexpensive, cannot injure and makes a delightful, effervescent lithia-water drink.

## HAVE ROSY CHEEKS AND FEEL FRESH AS A DAISY—TRY THIS!

Guys glass of hot water with phosphate before breakfast washed out poisons.

To see the tinge of healthy bloom in your face, to see your skin get clearer and clearer, to wake up without a headache, backache, coated tongue or a nasty breath, in fact to feel your best, day in and day out, just try inside-bathing every morning for one week.

Before breakfast each day, drink a glass of real hot water with a teaspoonful of limestone phosphate in it as a harmless means of washing from the stomach, liver, kidneys and bowels the previous day's indigestible waste, sour bile and toxins; thus cleansing, sweetening and purifying the entire alimentary canal before putting more food into the stomach. The action of hot water and limestone phosphate on an empty stomach is wonderfully invigorating. It cleans out all the sour fermentations, gases and acidity and gives one a splendid appetite for breakfast.

A quarter pound of limestone phosphate will cost very little at the drug store but is sufficient to demonstrate that just as soap and hot water cleanses, sweetens and freshens the skin, so hot water and limestone phosphate act on the blood and internal organs. Those who are subject to constipation, bilious attacks, acid stomach, rheumatic twinges, also those whose skin is sallow and complexion pallid, are assured that one week of inside-bathing will have them both looking and feeling better in every way.